

## Appendix M

### Natural Resources Management

**M-1. Purpose.** This appendix establishes policies and designates installation responsibilities for coordinated management of natural resources, including ecosystem management for habitats, listed species, and fish and wildlife naturally occurring at Fort Eustis and Fort Story, Virginia.

**M-2. Key Applicable Regulations.**

a. The Endangered Species Act requires federal facilities to implement programs to protect and conserve federally listed endangered and threatened plants and wildlife.

b. The Sikes Act requires fish and wildlife conservation and mandates federal facilities to execute cooperative plans with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and State Fish and Wildlife Agencies for managing fish and wildlife.

c. The Clean Water Act mandates the identification, delineation, and protection of wetlands and requires permits for actions which affect wetlands.

d. A memorandum from the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environmental Security dated 8 August 1994, Subject: *Implementation of Ecosystem Management in the DoD* states that ecosystem management is the basis for management of DoD lands and waters.

e. A memorandum from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Housing (known as the "Johnson Memorandum") dated 18 August 1989, Subject: *Policy Regarding Endangered Species Management Requirements on Army Installations* requires that consideration be given to species protected by both federal and state laws. In addition, the policy directs that candidate species be treated as listed species for the purpose of managing natural resources or supporting military mission requirements.

f. Army Regulation (AR) 200-3, *Natural Resources -- Land, Forest and Wildlife Management*, provides Army policy for managing natural resources.

g. AR 200-5, *Pest Management*, provides Department of the Army Pest Management Program policies to meet legal compliance requirements in implementing DOD Instruction 4150.7, comply with national policies, and support the military mission.

h. Fort Eustis Regulation (TCFE Reg.) 210-15, (Dated 30 August, 2001) *Hunting, Fishing and Trapping*.

**M-3. Policy.** It is the policy of Fort Eustis, consistent with the military training mission, to:

- a. Minimize activities that contribute to the degradation of natural resources.
- b. Manage for biological diversity through the protection and enhancement of natural ecosystems.
- c. Promote the sound use of natural resources and provide for forest products, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational support, environmental education opportunities, and support of scenic and aesthetic values.

**M-4. Responsibilities.**

a. The Director of Public Works (DPW) will exercise staff responsibility for the natural resources management program. The Environmental and Natural Resources Division (ENRD), Public Works will coordinate execution of the program and will:

- (1) Prepare and maintain the installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP).
  - (2) Coordinate the installation timber harvest, and fish and wildlife management programs with appropriate agencies; maintain liaison with the agencies through cooperative agreements as required.
  - (3) Provide guidance to land users for protecting and preserving natural resources.
  - (4) Review all master plans and updates for natural resources impacts.
  - (5) Prepare, maintain, and coordinate all actions for implementing the Installation Pest Management Plan.
  - (6) Provide natural resource guidance to the Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities (DPCA) to insure that the recreational hunting and fishing programs operated by the DPCA under Fort Eustis, TCFE Reg. 210-15 comply with the requirements of the INRMP.
  - (7) Coordinate and publish local policies/regulations as necessary to accomplish natural resources management programs.
  - (8) Provide input to other installation regulations (e.g., Fort Eustis Reg. TCFE 210-15) as needed to reflect natural resources management policy.
  - (9) Ensure that natural resources and ecosystem values receive consideration in all land leases and outgrants and that environmental protection and provisions of the INRMP are included in the lease or outgrant agreement.
  - (10) Ensure that dredge soil sites, mulch and compost areas are maintained, ie; proper water levels, erosion and exotic weed control.
- b. The Master Planner, DPW will:
- (1) Insure the INRMP is fully integrated into the Installation Master Plan.
  - (2) Coordinate and monitor all actions for implementing the INRMP.
  - (3) Conduct an annual review of the INRMP.
- c. The DPCA will manage the installation recreational hunting and fishing programs in accordance with TCFE Reg. 210-15, and will ensure coordination with ENRD so that the programs are managed within the requirements of the INRMP.
- d. The Commander, Fort Eustis and Fort Story will:
- (1) Insure the preparation and implementation of an INRMP applicable to the installations.
  - (2) Provide guidance to commanders of training units to insure that training activities are accomplished in concert with the requirements of the INRMP and this regulation.
- e. Major subordinate commanders will:
- (1) Ensure that the development of training programs includes the assessment of potential impacts to natural resources. Coordination will be made with ENRD (Tel. 757-878-4123) for information and guidance on environmental documentation that may be required for planned major exercises.

(2) Conduct training activities in accordance with this regulation to avoid or minimize damage to natural resources.

#### **M-5. Cantonment Area Land Management.**

a. The use of all land resources within the cantonment area, to include construction of facilities, road and trail construction/maintenance, and all landscaping, will be accomplished/approved by ENRD-DPW in accordance with the installation Master Plan.

b. Construction setbacks are required for streams/creeks, wetlands, and other water bodies on the Fort Eustis installation. Proponents of projects in the vicinity of water bodies will consult with ENRD at 878-4123 (ENRD-Fort Story 878-4123) to determine specific setback distances.

c. All unit activity commanders and family housing residents will maintain the ground surface, grass, shrubs, and trees within their area of responsibility. No refuse items or materials may be disposed of by leaving them on the ground in their area or surrounding areas. The Garrison mowing crew will maintain all vegetation around the Installation Headquarters and all areas not assigned to or occupied by a unit, activity, or tenant. DPW contractor will perform all required pest management activities, in accordance with the Installation Pest Management Plan.

d. Damaging trees is strictly prohibited.

e. The destruction of vegetation contributes to soil erosion and the loss of wildlife habitat. Throughout the cantonment/non-training area (including housing areas), it is not permissible to:

(1) Damage woody vegetation.

(2) Drive or park any motor/tactical vehicle or motor-driven cycle anywhere other than on designated roads, trails, training areas, parking areas, or recreational facilities specifically intended for such use.

#### **M-6. Downrange Land Management.**

a. The construction/maintenance of all downrange land resources, including all facilities, roads, trails, firebreaks, dam construction and maintenance activities, and vegetation maintenance activities will be coordinated with ENRD for approval to insure compliance requirements are met and projects are consistent with the INRMP.

b. The requirement in paragraph 5b above for consulting with the environmental office for construction setback requirements on streams/creeks, wetlands, and other water bodies on installation or sub-installation lands also applies downrange.

c. Unit commanders will conduct training activities so as to avoid damaging sensitive areas and resources depicted in the published Environmental Coordination Maps for Fort Eustis and Fort Story.

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